

Miscellaneous.

COVENT GARDEN PARISH SURVEYOR OF PAVEMENTS.—Sir, In connection with the unwarrantable proceedings of the parochial authorities in respect of the recent election, I beg to communicate that in the town of Hull a similar fraud was practised on candidates, of whom I was one. The matter was detected, but not quite so palpably as in the present instance, when the 19 competitors each, on assembling, subscribed to cover expenses, and selected the case of one (the next highest in rotation of election) and constituted him plaintiff on our joint behalf. We took out a summons in the County Court for 2l. 2s. loss of time against the vestry clerk, and on the hearing, 1l. 5s. was awarded with costs. This case formed a precedent for all, and in due course each claimant was satisfied. To the unsuccessful candidates in this instance I say go and do likewise, and may a similar result attend you.—A SURVEYOR. We have five other letters on this subject but cannot find room for them. One of them says—"Is it not preposterous that any committee (after persons of various pretensions, called together by public advertisement, have laid their testimonials before them) can elect one of themselves, who is, and who must be unqualified, according to their own printed particulars, which says he 'must be practically acquainted with the nature and properties of stone,' and in the face of the present carping against the idea of Government taking the superintendence of such appointments into their own hands?"

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—Mr. George Petrie has recently specified a patent for an apparatus that shall enable the telegraphist, or any public person who employs the telegraph, situated at any station, in a line of telegraphs, or system of telegraphs, to operate upon any distant part or parts of the general telegraphic apparatus, so as to connect, into one long circuit, any number of consecutive circuits, or branch circuits, so as to divide any circuit, or circuits, into any number of smaller circuits; also, so as to cut off from, and introduce into, any of the main, or branch circuits, any number of conversing telegraphs, recording telegraphs, alarms, or any other kind of telegraphic apparatus, in order that intelligence may be transmitted privately from one place to any other place or places; and, in order that the intelligence may be signalled, or recorded, at the distant place or places, or signalled at some places, and recorded at others, as may be required; also, in order that different kinds of intelligence may be transmitted from any place to any other place or places, or to all places simultaneously, throughout the whole system of main lines and branches. This invention, it appears, can be advantageously applied either to Morse's, Davy's, or Bain's telegraphic apparatus.

ART UNION OF LONDON.—The following is a list of the principal pictures purchased by prizeholders since our last:—By Mrs. Taylor, "Blowing Bubbles"—Past and Present, G. Harvey, 300l., from R.A.; Mr. J. A. Hatfield, "Catherine of Aragon appealing to Henry VIII., H. N. O'Neil, 200l., from R.A.; Mr. F. Allen, "Meditation," S. A. Hart, 120l., from R.A.; Mr. Charles Stewart, "A Shady River in Summer," F. R. Lee, 60l., from B.I.; Mr. R. Tweetyman, "The Soldier's Return," T. Brooka, 105l., from R.A.; Mr. J. Maurice, "Love in a Village," E. Prentiss, 50l., from S.B.A.; Mr. J. Meggy, "Returning from the Beach," J. H. Mole, 50l., from N.W.C.S.; Mr. D. Roberts, "Mysie Happer in attendance upon Sir P. Shafton," G. Wells, 50l., from R.A.; Mr. Edward Hawkins, "Othello and Desdemona," John Gilbert, 75l., from B.I.

SCENERY AT THE ITALIAN OPERA HOUSE.—The ball-room scene, painted in the style of the Renaissance, for the *Cenerentola*, recently revived at the Covent Garden Opera House, in a very fine manner, deserves warm commendation; and the same may be said of an Alhambraish "alcove in the palace of Nîrène," painted for the new ballet of *Nîrène, ou les Sens*. Messrs. Grieve and Telbin have been spurred on by the successes of younger artists elsewhere. The musical arrangements at this house are perfect.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 3rd June, for the erection of a county court-house at Belfast; by 24th inst., for the enlargement of St. Pancras Workhouse Infirmary; by 30th, for additions and alterations at St. Faith's Workhouse, Norfolk; by 23rd, for certain works at the Dunmow Union Workhouse; by a time not specified, for pulling down, rebuilding, and enlarging two houses at the West-end; and for building and finishing houses at Southampton; by 22nd inst., for enlargement and alteration of St. Mary's Schools, Leeds; by 29th, for building a parsonage-house at Tanfield, Chester-le-street; by 27th, for building a parsonage-house at Appleby, Lincolnshire; by 24th, for building a police station and lock-up-house at Gateshead; by 9th June, for executing certain building works at the county prison, Oxford; by 23rd inst., for the erection in timber of various station-houses on the Lancashire and Yorkshire and other railways; by 7th June, for the erection of book-binding-offices at Wellington station, Leeds; also, by 29th inst., for a supply of 20,000 sleepers for the Brighton Railway; and by 31st, for a supply of paint, &c. for the East-India House.

IMPROVEMENTS AT SLOUGH.—A correspondent informs us that the foundation-stone of the new building for the Slough Mechanics' Institute was laid on the 27th ult. by Mr. J. T. Bedford, of Upton Park, Bucks, in the presence of a great number of the inhabitants of Slough and its neighbourhood. The new edifice, from the design of Mr. Wigginton, jun., architect, of Slough, is to be erected in Church-street. It is Italian, with a campanile at the south-east corner, in which are the entrance-hall, staircase, and rooms for a person in charge of the premises. The body comprises a lecture-room, which may be extended, 36 x 21 x 19 high, reading-room, 17 x 14 (passage 4 ft. wide); committee and discussion class-room, 21 ft. x 14 ft. The reading-room can be thrown into the lecture-room, giving a length of 50 ft. 6 in. The committee-room can also be made a gallery in a few minutes, thus giving accommodation, in case of emergency, to about 350 persons. The president, Sir John Herschel, was prevented from attending. The Institute is in a flourishing condition, notwithstanding it has been established only fourteen months.—The gas-works are to be commenced immediately. The following is the list of tenders sent in for the brickwork and tank;

Stacey (Eton).....	£200
Bedborough (Windsor).....	840
Snowball (Slough).....	784

The last having withdrawn his tender the second was accepted.—The extensive alterations at the Royal Hotel are nearly completed: when finished, it will be second to few in the metropolis.—The foundation-stone of Colahbrook New Church was laid on Tuesday, April 25th, by Col. Clinton, proxy for Lady Montagu. Mr. Ferrey is the architect; Mr. Taylor, of Chertsey, the builder.—The drainage at Windsor Castle is in a very forward state. The whole will be ready for her Majesty by the 1st of June.

LAMP-LIGHTING BY ELECTRICITY was one of our own little fleet of pioneering skills of suggestion, cast adrift upon the broad sheet of the press, to visit many mental sources of origination discovery, and to return to us, "after many days," laden with practical fruits. And accordingly, we find that this light little bark has been visiting Leeds, where it has shipped something practical, or definite at least, in a plan proposed to the Leeds Town Council by a Mr. Joseph Southwood, who confidently asserts, according to the *Leeds Intelligencer*, that by this practical plan of his, "all the public lamps of the town may be simultaneously lighted and extinguished, without the intervention of lamp-lighters traversing the streets with their ladders,"—and that "by electricity, conveyed by a single continuous wire to every lamp; and moreover, by the same agent and by means of the same wire, the lamps are to be cleaned. Thus the work that now fully employs a number of men may be performed by one person, occupying him only a few minutes daily." And moreover, that by this said plan, "any number of towns, or all the towns of the kingdom, might be embraced and illuminated simultaneously by the same galvanic battery."

STATIONARY STATE OF METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.—In reply to a question put by Sir R. H. Inglis, in the House of Commons, in which he reminded the House that the embankment of the river from Vauxhall to Chelsea, the Pimlico and Westminster improvements, and the sewerage and drainage in the vicinity of the Palace, were recommended in five different reports of Commissioners, and approved by Government, but not carried out, to the serious loss and injury of many proprietors,—Lord Morpeth candidly pleaded the want of money as the simple but conclusive reason. All that could be fairly relied on had been anticipated, his lordship said, for the four main lines from the docks to Spitalfields, Coventry-street, Oxford-street East, and Endell-street. Some detail was then entered into respecting Chelsea and Battersea-park, and the proposed improvements between Spitalfields Church and Shoreditch, but unfortunately the noise of the House, not unusual when art or improvements are talked of, drowned the statement.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—On the 9th inst. the paper read was "Observations on the causes that are in constant operation tending to alter the outline of the coasts of Great Britain, to affect the entrances of rivers and harbours, and to form shoals and deeps in the bed of the sea," by Mr. J. T. Harrison. After noticing the gradual deterioration which the harbours of Great Britain are undergoing, the paper gave, as the causes of these effects—The action of fresh water—of the tidal wave—the wind waves and springs, and atmospheric changes, dwelling principally upon the tidal and wind waves. The summary of the arguments was, that the observed changes in our coasts and the mouths of the rivers, were the result of the combined action of the wind waves and of the tidal waves, and the attention of engineers was particularly directed to these sections in different localities, in order that by presenting to the institution the result of their observations, an invaluable collection of recorded facts might be assembled, which would be of great benefit to the profession and to the scientific world.

A SANITARY ALDERMAN.—A series of questions and answers on the subject of sanitary reform have lately been published. The following is from the list belonging to a certain town in Warwickshire.—"Q. Is there in the town any person who would be considered an authority with reference to sanitary works, and whom the townspeople would trust with the immediate expenditure of their own money on such works.—A. Yes, one of the aldermen, a cheesemonger; but he is opposed to the appointment of a town surveyor, on the score of economy, and to all improvements that require increased expenditure; and, particularly, 'he does not see no use in baths and washhouses, inasmuch as a friend of his never washed for twenty years, and was never none the worse.'"

GOUT.—This term is generally explained a drain, and Ray gives it as a Somersetshire word, "Gowts, ewales, cloacæ, seu sentina subterranea."—"English Words;" 1674, p. 67. It is still retained in use in Lincolnshire, not merely in that sense, but also applied to a sliding door at the extremity of a drain, by means of which the water is retained in the drain in a dry season, and let off in a time of flood. "Goutles, sinks, vaults: Bristol is eminent for these goutles or subterraneous vaults, by reason of which they draw all things on aledges, for fear the shaking of cart-wheels should loosen these arches."—"Kennet's MS. Glossary." Kennet also informs us that a "wide ditch or water-course that empties itself into the sea, is called in Romney Marsh a *gut*." These terms are doubtless connected with each other, and with the word as it occurs in the *Prompt. Parv.* "Gote or water schetelys, aquagium." Dugdale, in his "History of Imbanking," 1662, p. 243, mentions "the erecting of two new gates at Skirbek and Langare, for drayning the waters out of South Holland and the fens."*

* From "Contributions to English Philology," by Mr. Halliwell, in the May number of the Journal of the Archaeological Association. The number contains, among other papers, some interesting details of the Roman buildings found in Thames-street.